

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12 /116 W
-----124086 261419Z /47

R 260909Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9767
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBERVILLE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 040
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3612

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XA, RO
SUBJECT: ROMANIAN COMMENTS ON OAU ANNIVERSARY

1. RCP DAILY "SCINTEIA" OF 25 MAY CARRIES TWO PIECES ON
OCCASION OF ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY:
ONE IS PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU MESSAGE TO GABONESE PRESIDENT
EL HADJ OMAR BONGO IN HIS CAPACITY AS OAU CHAIRMAN; OTHER
IS AN AUTHORITATIVE EDITORIAL. ALTHOUGH BOTH REITERATE
ROMANIAN SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND
ADOPT WELL KNOWN LINE AGAINST APARTHEID, THEY ALSO SPEAK
OUT SHARPLY AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO CREATE "SPHERES OF INFLUENCE"
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IN AFRICA "UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS, INCLUDING TERRITORIAL,
STEMMING FROM COLONIAL LEGACY HAVE BEEN USED TO PIT ONE
AFRICAN COUNTRY AGAINST ANOTHER AND TO AGGRAVATE THE STATE
OF TENSION TO THE POINT OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION. ROMANIA,
AS A SINCERE FRIEND OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLES, CALLS FOR THE
PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONTENTIONS QUESTIONS AMONG AFRICAN
STATES THROUGH DIRECT TALKS AND WITH NO FOREIGN INTERVENTION."

2. COMMENT. UNTIL NOW ROMANIA HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY RATHER RESERVED ON PROBLEMS IN THE HORN AND IN ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE. WHILE MAY 25 STATEMENTS APPEAR TO CONDEMN ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA EQUALLY, WE CONSIDER THE REFERENCE TO SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIVITY AS QUITE CLEAR. DEEP ROMANIAN AVERSION TO ARMED INTERVENTION BY ONE STATE IN ANOTHER COUPLED WITH CONTINUED ROMANIAN COURTSHIP OF AFRICA IN THIRD WORLD CONTEXT LEAD GOR TO TRY TO PUT AS MUCH DAYLIGHT AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN ITS OWN "PRINCIPLED" STANCE AND THAT OF ALL NON-AFRICAN INTERVENTIONISTS, FRENCH AND BELIGAN ACTIONS IN SHABA PROVIDES GOR WITH PLAUSIBLE PRETEXT FOR EXPLAINING WHY ROMANIA FELT OBLIGED TO STRESS NON-INTERVENTION IN AFRICA SO STRONGLY AT THIS TIME, BUT DOUBTFUL IF SOVIETS WILL MISS THE REAL ROMANIAN INTENTION. THIS CONCLUSION WAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY OFFICER MAY 25 BY MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS BOGDAN BALTAZAR WHO WROTE FIRST DRAFT OF CEAUSESCU'S MESSAGE; BALTAZAR SAID THAT HE WAS BEING ASKED "TROUBLESOME QUESTIONS" FROM SOURCES HE IMPLIED WERE SOVIET DIPLOMATS RE MEANING OF STATEMENT ON SPHERES OF INFLUENCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUCHAR03612
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780223-0031
Format: TEL
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780516/aaaaamyj.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bc623096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2556641
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMANIAN COMMENTS ON OAU ANNIVERSARY
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, MASS, XA, RO, UR, CU, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bc623096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014